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Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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FOR RELEASE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

Effective December 17, 1947, cigarettes were added to the July 11 list of items whose importation into Mexico is temporarily prohibited.

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The 1947 cotton crop in Greece was recently estimated officially at 53,000 bales (of 500 pounds) compared with an earlier estimate of 44,000, and the 1946 crop of 51,000 bales. The harvested acreage was placed at 106,000 acres compared with 130,000 in 1946. Favorable weather in the latter part of the growing season resulted in higher yields and better quality cotton than in 1946. Current mill consumption is estimated at 6,900 bales monthly. Stocks on hand November 30 totaled 31,000 bales and when added to about 41,000 bales of new crop local cotton expected after that date, the supply is considered sufficient for 10 months. Imports are restricted temporarily and no cotton has been imported since August 1, 1947.

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The second official estimate placed the 1947-48 cotton crop in Burma at 28,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) from 199,400 acres planted, compared with a corresponding estimate of 21,000 bales from 193,400 acres (138,840 actually harvested) in 1946-47.

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COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDSU. S. RICE EXPORTS
ABOVE AVERAGE

Continued heavy shipments to Cuba during November 1947 raised United States rice exports substantially above average. Total November exports amounted to 141 million pounds, of which 128 million went to Cuba. Rough rice exports of 16 million pounds were delivered to Canada. Average total exports for November from 1941 to 1945 equalled 46 million pounds.

RICE: United States exports to specified countries,
November 1947, with comparisons a/

	August-July		August-November		November	
Continent	: 1937-38:	:	:	:	:	:
and	: to :	1946-47:	1946 :	1947 :	1946 :	1947
Country	: 1941-42:	b/ :	:	b/ :	:	b/
	: Million:	Million :	Million :	Million :	Million :	Million
	: pounds :	pounds :	pounds :	pounds :	pounds :	pounds
Europe.....	43 :	c/ :	c/ :	1 :	c/ :	c/
Cuba.....	275 :	465 :	57 :	306 :	39 :	128
Canada.....	19 :	24 :	15 :	25 :	8 :	11
Philippine Islands....	c/ :	254 :	58 :	c/ :	54 :	0
China.....	d/ :	67 :	11 :	0 :	11 :	0
Other countries.....	21 :	13 :	4 :	3 :	3 :	2
Total.....	358 :	828 :	145 :	335 :	115 :	141

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

a/ Includes milled rice, brown, broken, screenings and rough rice converted to milled at 65 percent. b/ Preliminary. c/ Less than 500,000 pounds. d/ If any, included in other countries.

BURMA INCREASES
RICE ACREAGE

Burma's rice acreage likely to be harvested in 1947-48 is estimated at 8,877,000 acres, compared with 7,794,000 a year earlier, in the second official forecast. This area is about 200,000 acres larger than the previous estimate, and means an increase of more than 1,000,000 acres over the area harvested in 1946-47. The second forecast deals with conditions at the end of October 1947.

The sown area was estimated at 9,060,000 acres, or 71 percent of the pre-war (1936-37/1940-41) average, and 30 percent larger than the area sown in 1945-46. On the whole, standing crops were in good condition and prospects were favorable.

DRY WEATHER HURTS MEXICAN RICE CROP

Low water supplies in Sonora, the principal rice-producing State of Mexico, prevented the planting of the intended acreage in 1947-48, and caused a reduction in the yields harvested per acre. Although 101,000 acres were prepared for planting, only 96,000 were sown, compared with 99,000 planted in the preceding year. Furthermore, this year's pre-harvest loss was 10,000 acres, compared with 3,000 acres unharvested in 1946-47.

The production is forecast at 2,700,000 bushels (80 million pounds milled) compared with 3,300,000 bushels (95 million pounds) a year earlier. Harvesting began three weeks later than in the year before, and crops conditions are reported to be poorer than average.

PHILIPPINE TYPHOONS REDUCE RICE HARVEST

In the Philippine Islands, typhoons in November and December caused a total loss of 6 percent in the 1947-48 rice crop. The harvest is now estimated at 108,860,000 bushels (3,430 million pounds milled) compared with 1946-47 production of 107,700,000 bushels (3,400 million pounds), and with the prewar average (1935-36/1939-40) of 109,000,000 bushels (3,450 million pounds). Despite some destruction by typhoons, this year's outturn is the largest since before the war. The main month of harvest is December.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

SPANISH PICKLED OLIVE PRODUCTION ABOVE AVERAGE

The 1947-48 preliminary estimate of pickled olive production in Spain is 31,200 short tons compared with 62,400 tons in 1946-47 and 30,300 tons in 1945-46. The estimate exceeds the 5-year (1940-41/1944-45) average of 29,100 tons by 7 percent, and the 10-year (1935-36/1944-45) average of 28,700 tons by 9 percent.

In terms of hogsheads this season's indicated pack is 30,000 for Queens and 35,000 for Manzanillas compared with 70,000 for Queens and 60,000 for Manzanillas the previous season. This entire quantity, packed under new regulations are expected to be suitable for export to the United States and Canada.

The new regulations contained in the decree of August 18, 1947, authorize the pickling of fine Manzanilla Moron olives produced in Moron and Seville, and Queens produced anywhere. No other types of olives may be pickled this year. Provision is made for authorizing pickling of other types if market conditions warrant.

(Continued on following page)

SPAIN: Estimated production of pickled olives, 1947-48 with comparisons
(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Queens	Manzanillas	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Averages			
1940-41/1944-45	15,300	13,800	29,100
1935-36/1944-45	15,100	13,600	28,700
Annual			
1940-41	5,800	11,300	17,100
1941-42	38,400	25,900	64,300
1942-43	2,800	5,600	8,400
1943-44	21,100	11,800	32,900
1944-45	8,600	14,400	23,000
1945-46	13,100	17,200	30,300
1946-47 <u>a/</u>	33,600	28,800	62,400
1947-48 <u>a/</u>	14,400	16,800	31,200

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign service officers, results of office research, or other information.
a/ Preliminary estimate.

In general, growing conditions in the areas producing pickling olives were good. More rain would have been beneficial however. Olives attained good size and the quantity was ample. A report states that about 30 percent of the olives were not picked due to market conditions. The important Jaen district suffered the most from the lack of rain but still produced a large crop. Other districts had sufficient rain and all reports indicate that quality was good and relatively free of blemishes. The picking, curing, and processing were carried out under favorable conditions.

The 1946-47 season closed with a substantial carry-over. Actual shipments to October 15 to the United States were 42,047 hogsheads, with contracts for 18,600 more on hand. It since has been reported that a substantial part of this quantity will not be shipped due to contract cancellations. This heavy carry-over caused the industry to turn out a smaller pack this season. There was considerable complaint on the part of United States buyers as to quality during the season. Domestic consumption in Spain was higher than normal but was not sufficient to offset the lack of export volume to the United States.

One unusual development in this connection was the milling of an estimated 56,818 hogsheads of inferior grade olives into oil which was purchased by the Spanish government, because of the numerous complaints regarding quality. The government was to pay 24 pesetas per 2.2 lbs. for hydrogenated olive oil and 18 for sulphur oil. (About 99.6 and 74.7 US cents per lb.) The order permitting this action had been issued in July, then revoked and finally restored in September. The disposal of the old crop for oil would make available 55,000 hogsheads for use on the new crop.

The price situation is rather confused this season and accounts in part for pessimism among exporters about the export possibilities this season.

Growers demanded higher prices for their olives, and other costs have gone up. Exporters complained that prices were too high and that exports would suffer. They had the moral support of their American contacts who felt that prices should be held stable through December 31, 1947 to enable them to dispose of rather large stocks of last year's olives still on hand. Exporters felt a price of \$35 was about as high as they could quote in view of their costs in Spain, and at that doubted if more than a fraction of the pack could be sold to United States buyers who normally buy 95 percent of the pack. The market almost came to a standstill by early November because of the price angle and large stocks on hand in the United States.

UNITED STATES: Total imports of pickled olives
(Rounded to nearest 1,000 gallons)

Calendar year	:	Pitted or stuffed	:	Unpitted (In brine)	:	Total
	:	1,000	:	1,000	:	1,000
	:	<u>gallons</u>	:	<u>gallons</u>	:	<u>gallons</u>
Averages	:		:		:	
1942-46	:	5,596	:	3,170	:	8,766
1937-46	:	4,384	:	3,140	:	7,524
Annual	:		:		:	
1943	:	5,162	:	3,534	:	8,696
1944	:	5,168	:	4,654	:	9,822
1945	:	6,966	:	2,300	:	9,266
1946	:	8,070	:	2,871	:	10,941
1947 a/	:	3,354	:	3,110	:	6,464

Compiled from Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States, and official records of the Bureau of the Census.

a/ Ten months, January through October 1947.

SPAIN PROHIBITS EXPORTATION
OF ALMONDS AND HAZELNUTS

According to a Decree-Law published in the Official Bulletin November 21, 1947, almond and hazelnut exports are of "preferential national interest" and the exportation thereof until further notice is prohibited. All stocks of these nuts are frozen and export shipments can only be made with governmental permission. Article 8 states that the government is to intervene in all phases of production, processing, and marketing of these nuts as soon as an organization can be formed.

The provisions of the decree with regard to freezing of stocks were immediately enforced. All firms were visited by police and instructed to declare all nuts in their possession. Representatives of the price control office later checked to make sure the trade followed instructions. The decree stopped all business in these nuts, both export and domestic.

It is understood the reason for this decree is that Spanish exports of these nuts have fallen to very low levels during the last two years. The decline in exports is primarily due to the high prices of Spanish nuts in comparison with those in Italy and other Mediterranean Basin countries. The trade is at a loss as to what action the government will take to effect exports and revive the trade. The numerous discussions between the trade and government in Madrid on this subject in recent months leads some to believe the government has

worked out a scheme whereby a more favorable exchange rate may be granted exporters. The extent to which this is fact or wishful thinking remains to be seen.

SPANISH 1947 RAISIN ESTIMATE LOWER

The 1947 preliminary estimate of raisin production in Spain has been lowered from 13,200 short tons to 10,200 tons on basis of recent information. The estimate for Valencia is now 4,700 tons and for Malaga 5,500 tons. The decline in Spanish raisin output over earlier estimates is attributed to a stronger demand for fresh fruit than was realized, plus the fact that considerable rain damage occurred in the Denia district (Valencia).

In the Malaga district half the pack had moved through the control office and passed on into trade channels by November 21, 1947. Exports from Malaga during this period totalled 242 short tons, of which 94 tons went to Switzerland, 42 tons to Belgium and the balance in relatively small lots to South American countries, Portugal and Tangiers. These data indicate some 2,500 tons moved into domestic channels. The strong demand in the domestic market and high prices in relation to raisins obtainable in other countries have kept exports at low levels. There appears to be relatively little black market operations in raisins in this district this year.

In the Denia (Valencia) district the export situation is even more discouraging than in Malaga. Exports to date have totalled only 44 short tons and went to Switzerland. At the start of the season, it was reported the British Ministry of Food was willing to purchase the entire pack at 70 shillings per 110 lbs. f.o.b. Denia (about 12.7 US cents per lb.). Spanish exporters however, could not sell at that level and countered with 110 shillings (about 20 US cents per lb.). The deal fell through as the United Kingdom could purchase raisins elsewhere at considerably less cost.

The Denia raisin outlook is not very promising because of the price situation. Little export business is expected, and unlike the Malaga raisins, there appears to be little domestic interest in Denia raisins. Some packers now feel that it will be necessary to sell the balance of the season's pack at sacrifice prices to distillers.

(Continued on Page 23)

TOBACCO

BELGIAN TOBACCO IMPORTS AT HIGH LEVEL

Belgium's imports of leaf tobacco during the period January-October 1947 totaled 34.5 million pounds, of which the United States supplied 21.8 million, or 63 percent of the total. Other chief sources of Belgium's tobacco imports during the first 10 months of last year were Brazil which supplied 2.7 million pounds, and the Dominican Republic which furnished 2.6 million. Belgian imports of leaf tobacco averaged 39.9 million pounds annually during the five years 1935-39. The United States supplied only one-third of the prewar imports.

Belgian imports of leaf in 1948 may reach 44 million pounds, according to the American Embassy at Brussels. Of this amount, about 31 million may come from the United States. It is presumed that flue-cured and Burley will make up the bulk of United States exports to Belgium this year.

Because of a shortage of dollar exchange, the Belgian Government was recently forced to re-establish currency controls. Leaf tobacco, however, was not affected by these restrictions, and may be imported without exchange difficulties. The importation of tobacco products was not definitely prohibited. Discussions regarding their status are underway, and each application to import them will be treated individually.

U. S. BURLEY EXPORTS AT RECORD HIGH

Exports of Burley tobacco from the United States during the first 11 months of 1947 totaled 41.7 million pounds. For the full calendar year 1946, exports amounted to 35.1 million, and average annual exports during the five years 1935-39 were only 10.6 million. For the period January-November 1947, Burley tobacco was shipped to 35 countries and dependencies. The principal destination was Italy, which took 12.3 million pounds. Exports to France amounted to 7.3 million pounds, and to the Netherlands 5.9 million. Other countries importing considerable quantities of United States Burley leaf last year were Portugal, Sweden and Belgium. In prewar years, the principal markets for Burley were Portugal, Belgium and the Netherlands.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS (Continued from page 22).

TURKISH RAISIN MARKET SLOW

The 1947-48 marketing season in Izmir, which started off slowly, has made little progress to date compared to normal seasons. The total sales to all outlets were 19,800 tons, or about 60 percent of the 33,000-ton pack. The 1947 pack, however, was one of the smallest in recent years. The Turkish government refused to permit sales to sterling countries when the season opened. This policy was finally amended in October to some extent and 9,400 short tons were sold to the United Kingdom and 3,300 short tons to Ireland. It is understood negotiations are underway for sale of additional tonnages. A further quantity may be taken by Ireland if present negotiations are successful. Small exports were made to a number of other countries.

The Turkish government purchased about 3,800 tons for its alcohol monopoly and other uses. It is estimated that the 13,200 tons still on hand will be disposed of before new-crop raisins appear on the market. There has been little fluctuation in prices announced earlier in the season. Many exporters have been disappointed by this season's activities on the Bourse and are hopeful of a better market and crop in 1948.

ITALIAN WALNUT CROP LARGER;
TURKISH OUTPUT SMALLER

The 1947 preliminary estimate of walnut production in Italy is 16,500 short tons in the shell, compared with 13,800 tons in 1946 and 16,500 tons in 1945. The estimate exceeds the 5-year (1941-45) average of 13,800 tons by 20 percent and the 10-year (1936-45) average of 14,100 tons by 17 percent. The 1947 crop and that of 1945 were the largest in the past decade. These estimates refer to the Naples-Sorrento district where practically all the commercial production occurs.

There was sufficient rainfall early in the season to provide all necessary moisture. There was insufficient rainfall during the later part of the growing season which reduced damage to the quality. It is reported that the quality this season is excellent, in fact the best in some years.

The 1946 crop was completely sold out by the time 1947 nuts came to market. The United Kingdom was the principal buyer, having paid about 240 shillings per 220 pounds, c.i.f., English port (about 21.97 U. S. cents per pound) for unshelled nuts. Other buyers were Switzerland, Sweden, Argentina, and Brazil. The Italian exporters sold to American customers 237 short tons of shelled and 162 tons of unshelled walnuts. A substantial tonnage, mostly of lower grade, were sold to oil mills.

This season few inquiries have been received from the United Kingdom to date. The inquiries from Argentina, Brazil, and the Scandinavian countries have also been very limited and the use of nuts for oil came to an end in September due to the large olive oil output now in progress. The importers in foreign countries are anxious to purchase Italian walnuts but their governments are not permitting imports because of the acute foreign exchange situation. In some countries very limited quantities were permitted to be imported. United States importers are reported to have shown little interest early in the season but inquiries are a little more plentiful now, though actual business is still slow. The action of the Italian government in September to permit the exporters of wool to receive 75 percent of the proceeds of foreign sales in "export exchange lire" thereby reducing the price in terms of dollars was at first taken by some exporters of nuts to be an indication of the policy for all exports and raised considerable hopes. The Italian government, however, did not extend the concession to nuts. The season to date has been a very slow one as far as exports are concerned.

The 1947 preliminary estimate of the exportable surplus of walnuts in Turkey is 9,900 short tons, unshelled basis, compared with 13,800 tons in 1946 and 2,000 tons in 1945. The estimate exceeds the 5-year (1941-45) average of 6,700 tons by 48 percent and the 10-year (1936-45) average of 7,200 tons by 38 percent. These data relate to that portion of the crop that is of suitable grade and quality to meet export specifications only. The total production is from three to four times the exportable surplus but domestic consumption is very high in Turkey. Unlike hazelnuts, the walnut industry is not centered in one area and is not as well organized. Walnut growers have but few trees each and it is not possible to obtain accurate data on their production.

The 1946 exportable crop was almost entirely disposed of before new-crop walnuts became available. The carry-over was less than 200 tons of kernels. During the 1946-47 export season to June 1, 1,230 tons of kernels were exported and 2,273 tons of unshelled nuts compared with a season total of 1,128 tons of kernels and 498 tons of unshelled in 1945-46. Turkish export data show 389 tons of kernels were exported to the United States in 1945-46, and the same tonnage to June 1 in the 1946-47 season. No unshelled walnuts were exported to the United States in either season. During the 1946-47 season exports of shelled nuts were made to Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland and Egypt in fair volume and to a number of other countries in small lots. The United Kingdom purchased less than 6 tons of shelled but was the principal buyer of unshelled walnuts. The same group of countries that purchased most of the shelled also accounted for most of the unshelled.

The quantity of shelled walnuts produced in any given year depend upon foreign demand. It is therefore impossible to arrive at this figure before the end of the season. There is no information available at this time to indicate how many walnuts have been shelled to date this season, however some members of the trade estimate about 900 tons of kernels will be produced this season. Foreign demand has been very slow so far this season.

WALNUTS: Estimated production for export in Italy
and Turkey, 1947 with comparisons
(Short tons - unshelled basis)

Year	:	Italy	:	Turkey
Averages	:		:	
1936-45	:	14,100	:	7,200
1941-45	:	13,800	:	6,700
Annual	:		:	
1940	:	10,400	:	11,000
1941	:	12,900	:	11,600
1942	:	15,000	:	8,800
1943	:	10,900	:	5,500
1944	:	13,800	:	5,500
1945	:	a/ 16,500	:	2,000
1946 b/	:	13,800	:	13,800
1947 b/	:	16,500	:	9,900

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research, or other information.

a/ Revised. b/ Preliminary.

UNITED STATES: Exports of walnuts
(In Short tons)

Crop Year	:	:	:	All	:	:
October -	:	Europe	:	Canada	:	Other
September	:	:	:	:	:	Countries:
	:		:		:	Total
SHELLED						
1943-44.....	:	0	:	2	:	11
1944-45.....	:	0	:	2	:	33
1945-46.....	:	a/	:	96	:	35
1946-47.....	:	1	:	84	:	29
1947-48 b/.....	:	0	:	122	:	10
	:		:		:	132
UNSHELLED						
1943-44.....	:	37	:	1,024	:	155
1944-45.....	:	0	:	1,343	:	313
1945-46.....	:	206	:	2,222	:	882
1946-47.....	:	288	:	1,442	:	761
1947-48 b/.....	:	28	:	736	:	749
	:		:		:	1,513

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

a/ Less than one-half ton.

b/ Two months, October and November 1947.

UNITED STATES: Imports for consumption of walnuts
(In short tons)

Crop Year	:	:	:	All	:	:
October -	:	China	:	France	:	Other
September	:	:	:	:	:	Countries
	:		:		:	Total
SHELLED						
Average	:	:	:	:	:	:
1936-37/1940-41	:	1,748	:	241	:	290
	:		:		:	2,279
Annual	:	:	:	:	:	:
1943-44.....	:	a/	:	0	:	6
1944-45.....	:	0	:	0	:	6
1945-46.....	:	0	:	0	:	239
1946-47.....	:	23	:	0	:	445
1947-48 b/.....	:	c/	:	c/	:	c/
	:		:		:	23
UNSHELLED						
Average	:	:	:	:	:	:
1936-37/1940-41.....	:	0	:	6	:	44
	:		:		:	50
Annual	:	:	:	:	:	:
1943-44.....	:	0	:	0	:	0
1944-45.....	:	0	:	0	:	a/
1945-46.....	:	0	:	0	:	24
1946-47.....	:	a/	:	0	:	118
1947-48 b/.....	:	0	:	0	:	0

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

a/ Less than one-half ton.

b/ Two months, October and November 1947.

c/ Country breakdown not yet available.

DOLLAR SHORTAGES CUT U.S. FRUIT EXPORTS

Commercial exports of fresh fruits from the United States, after showing a remarkable recovery in the 1946-47 season from the effects of the war, have dwindled with the advancement of the current season. During the first five months (July-November) of the 1947-48 season domestic exports of some of the major fruits have been as follows: apples 1,146,000 bushels; pears 1,178,000 bushels; oranges 2,741,000 boxes; grapefruit 541,000 boxes and lemons 224,000 boxes.

In 1946, the United Kingdom was optimistic concerning their industrial production and export program and with dollars from United States and Canadian loans purchased substantial quantities of fruit from us and our neighbor to the north. In addition to a purchase of 4,500,000 bushels of fresh apples from Canada, the United Kingdom bought 1,700,000 bushels of apples, 875,000 bushels of pears, 499,000 boxes of grapefruit and substantial quantities of grapes and certain other fruits from the United States during the 1946-47 season ending June 30. By spring of 1947 it became very evident that their industrial program would fall far short of the goal and that the loan obtained from the United States would be used up long before the calculated date. The resulting "austerity" program included the closing of the United Kingdom market as of July 1 to imports of United States fruit except that which was then enroute or on contract accompanied by irrevocable credit. Domestic exports of 481,000 bushels of pears to the United Kingdom during the July-November period has resulted from the fulfillment of irrevocable contracts and such movement has about ended.

Sweden was the destination of substantial quantities of major fruits during the 1946-47 season as follows: 816,000 bushels of apples, 346,000 bushels of pears, 405,000 boxes of oranges. Import restrictions were imposed in March 1947. In June an understanding was reached between the two Governments which would have allowed the movement of very substantial quantities of fruit to Sweden during the current season. No permits for the movement of United States fruit were issued in Sweden, however, until November when token imports of about 46,000 bushels of apples and pears were licensed. During that month the United States exported 18,000 bushels of apples and 16,000 bushels of pears. Sweden had joined the dollar short group.

Some of our southern neighbors were good customers during the 1946-47 season. Mexico was the destination of 292,000 bushels of apples and 38,000 bushels of pears from the United States. Import controls were imposed in July which have cut the flow of fruit from the United States. During the July-November period domestic exports of apples to Mexico have totalled 64,000 bushels, and of pears 14,000 bushels.

Exports to Brazil during the 1946-47 season totalled 146,000 bushels of apples and 148,000 bushels of pears. Exchange controls were tightened this season. Despite this fact, the United States has exported 197,000 bushels of pears to Brazil during the July-November period. Apple exports to that country, however, are below last season's rate, totalling 59,000 bushels for the five-month period.

Canada purchased fruit heavily from the United States during the 1946-47 season. Among the major exports to Canada last season were 5,504,000 boxes of oranges, 1,761,000 boxes of grapefruit, 438,000 boxes of lemons, 392,000 bushels of apples, 564,000 bushels of pears and 25,600 tons of grapes. Effective November 18, 1947, the Canadian Government restricted imports of a long list of items, including fruits. Under the order, most fresh fruits and fresh vegetables from the United States were prohibited entry. Provision was made for the importation, under a quota, of a category of fruit and vegetable items including fresh and dried potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, apples, grapefruit, oranges, lemons, limes and fruit juices and fruit syrups. The quota for the category was set at 50 percent of the total dollar value of the quota items during the period July 1, 1946 through June 30, 1947. Through the July-November 1947 period, United States exports to Canada have included 1,901,000 boxes of oranges, 460,000 boxes of grapefruit, 202,000 boxes of lemons, 374,000 bushels of pears and 164,000 bushels of apples.

In Europe, Belgium and Luxembourg bought substantial quantities of apples and citrus fruits from the United States during the 1946-47 season. With bumper crops of apples and pears in 1947, fruit imports from the United States during the latter half of 1947 were limited largely to citrus fruits. During the July-November period, domestic exports of oranges to Belgium and Luxembourg totaled 415,000 boxes, grapefruit 64,000 boxes, and lemons 14,000 boxes. Belgium, however, has recently ceased to issue licenses for the importation of oranges, grapefruit, bananas, canned fruit or canned fruit juices from the dollar areas. Reason for the action is stated as two-fold (1), shortage of dollars and (2), some 1947 crop Belgian apples and pears remain unsold. The United States exported 373,000 bushels of apples, 28,000 bushels of pears, 1,033,000 boxes of oranges, 360,000 boxes of grapefruit, and 11,000 boxes of lemons to Belgium and Luxembourg during the 1946-47 season.

The Philippine Republic has been our largest foreign market for apples during the current season. Exports to that country during the July-November 1947 period totaled 444,000 bushels. Cuba has been the destination for 118,000 bushels, Hong Kong 102,000 bushels, Venezuela 83,000 bushels. Exports of oranges include 149,000 boxes of Hong Kong, 131,000 boxes to the Philippines, 73,000 boxes to Netherlands and 27,000 boxes to Mexico.

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

COSTA RICA'S 1947 CACAO EXPORTS EQUAL PREVIOUS YEAR'S

Exports of cacao beans from Costa Rica for the first nine months of 1947 totaled 6.2 million pounds compared with 7.0 million pounds during the same period last year. Exports for all of 1947 are expected to total 8.8 million pounds or the same as last year. Colombia has been the principal market, taking about 45 percent of Costa Rica's cacao exports during the first nine months of 1947. The United States took 12 percent, other Western Hemisphere countries 16 percent, Europe 22 percent, and other countries 5 percent.

Harvesting of the fall cacao crop began in September and was completed in late December. The crop was larger than for several years, since the dry

weather prevailing over much of the year resulted in decreased incidence of pod rot. Only about 50 percent of this crop was destroyed by pod rot compared to the usual 60 to 70 percent. Weather conditions have been favorable for the spring crop to be harvested from April to June. Unless pod rot is particularly severe, it is believed the spring harvest will be as large as the one just completed.

NIGERIA'S CACAO CROP BELOW EXPECTATIONS

According to an airgram received from the American Consul at Lagos, the 1947-48 cacao crop in Nigeria and the British Cameroons now is estimated at 190 million pounds, compared with 246 million pounds last year. Previous forecasts indicated a crop at least as large as 1946-47, but excessive rainfall during the summer months not only destroyed a large percentage of the flowers, but was favorable to the development of black pod. Many of the early-ripening pods were lost on account of this disease.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS (Continued from Page 19)

ARGENTINE GRAIN EXPORTS INCREASE

During July-December, 1947, exports of the principal grains from Argentina reached a total of 4.1 million short tons, according to incomplete reports from trade sources. Official data now available for a part of the period indicate that this total may be exceeded when complete returns are in. At 4.1 million tons, however, the total for the six-month period greatly exceeds grain exports during a similar period for any other year since 1939, and nearly equals that for each of the past two fiscal years.

The rate of movement continued small during the first three months of the period under review, but made a substantial gain during October. Total exports during November held at the October level, with another significant increase reported in December.

The bulk of the increase is accounted for by larger corn exports, more than half of the total movement of corn being shipped during November-December. The large shipment of corn during December put grain exports for that month at the highest level since June 1939.

The improving situation is partly a result of more effective co-ordination of inland transportation with ocean shipping facilities. It also reflects recent efforts of administrative officials to expedite the movement of grain in that country.

ARGENTINA: Grain exports, July-December 1947, with comparisons

Period	Wheat	Corn	Barley	Oats	Rye	Total
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 Short tons
Av. 1933-34 to 1937-38	1/ 141,131:2/	279,984:3/	18,188:4/	24,319:1/	4,803	13,034
1945-46						
July-December	36,854	12,283	9,783	4,547	5,236	1,904
January-June	30,717	33,738	17,821	11,781	4,055	2,596
Total	67,571	46,021	27,604	16,328	9,291	4,500
1946-47						
July-December	20,062	52,438	11,115	10,196	2,165	2,561
January-June	38,874	21,101	6,200	3,651	1,693	2,012
Total	58,936	73,539	17,315	13,847	3,858	4,573
1947-48						
July	9,370	4,291	459	-	1,024	441
August	6,981	5,511	276	-	787	392
September	6,173	8,031	2,113	-	1,102	492
October	7,716	13,228	7,946	344	984	826
November	6,063	16,377	6,292	344	1,024	826
December	6,651	24,684	4,593	482	3,149	1,027
July-Dec.	42,954	72,122	21,679	1,170	8,070	4,074

From official and unofficial sources.

1/ Includes flour in terms of grain.

2/ Includes cornmeal in terms of grain.

3/ Excludes flour and malt.

4/ Includes oatmeal in terms of grain.

ARGENTINE WHEAT OUTLOOK PROMISING

The outturn from the Argentine wheat harvest now being completed, will be larger than was expected earlier, according to recent reports. The first official forecast of the crop, normally published early in December, has not yet been released. Trade reports indicate, however, that the crop may be at least as large as last year's production of 206 million bushels.

Expectations of better returns than were looked for earlier in the season are based in large part on suprisingly good yields of unusually heavy test weight wheat reported from various points in Cordoba and Santa Fe. Rainfall in southern Buenos Aires and in parts of La Pampa early in December was said to have made some improvement in prospects there, though the rain was too late in the season to benefit the crop greatly. Yields in those areas are reported to range from fair to poor, in contrast with the good yields in northern areas. Locust damage, which had threatened to be serious, especially in Cordoba and Santa Fe, had been held to a minimum at last report.

The acreage seeded to wheat this year was the smallest recorded since 1904 according to the final estimate of 13,641,000 acres seeded. The bonus to be paid producers for deliveries of wheat from the current crop before July 31, was announced too late in the season to provide any incentive to increase the acreage seeded. Increased harvesting costs are said to largely offset the increase in price paid to producers. (The price paid for deliveries up to July 31, 1948 has been set at \$1.62 per bushel, bagged, on track at Buenos Aires, deliveries after that date at \$1.46 per bushel compared with last year's price of \$1.38 for the first 11,000 tons delivered.

The outlook for other small grains is less favorable than the prospects for wheat, being smaller than the 1946 outturn for all these grains. Rye and barley crops, as unofficially forecast at 14 and 34 million bushels respectively, would be, however, larger than the average of 1935-39. Oats, as forecast at about 47 million bushels would be smaller than average as well as less than the 1946 outturn. Much of the barley and oats acreage is in the southern part of the country, and trade reports are more indefinite than in the case of wheat. Dry conditions in these areas are believed to have brought yields somewhat below those of 1946.

Prices at which the Argentina Trade Promotion Institute will buy current crops of rye and oats were announced at the equivalent of \$1.32 per bushel for rye and \$0.69 for oats. Producers will receive these higher prices from the government in the form of a bonus amounting to 3 pesos per 100 kilograms (22 cents per bushel) for rye and 2.5 pesos (11 cents per bushel) for oats. No change was made in last year's price of 88 cents per bushel for barley.

Government control was recently extended to make the Institute the sole purchaser of milling byproducts for export.

CANADA HOLDS GRAIN ACREAGE GOALS AT 1947 LEVEL

Canada's Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference, held annually since 1939, met early in December. Definite acreage goals were not set at that time,

as had been done at all previous conferences, but tentatively goals were set for grains at the 1947 level. (Grain acreage in 1947 was as follows in million acres: Wheat 23.9, oats 11.0, barley 7.5, rye 1.2, and mixed grains 1.1).

Establishment of definite grain acreage goals was largely contingent on the government's feed grain program, which had not yet been announced, and on the outcome of negotiations then underway with the British Food Mission as to total purchases Britain will make.

The Minister of Agriculture announced at the opening session of the meeting that price relationships between farmers' returns and feed costs would be restored. Need for some action on feeds is the outgrowth of the removal of price ceilings and subsidies from coarse grains on October 21.

SOVIET 1947 GRAIN CROP EXPORT PROGRAM DEVELOPED

During the past few months, following a better crop in 1947 compared with 1946 and the war years, the Soviet Union has developed a significant grain export program.

The aggregate U.S.S.R. production of the five principal grains (wheat, rye, oats, barley and corn) in 1947 was still about four-fifths of prewar; nevertheless, compulsory deliveries to the Soviet Government, from which exports originate under the Soviet State monopoly, were reported as equal to the best prewar years.

Export commitments from the 1947 harvest made by the Soviet Government through early January are shown in Table 1. The export program is nearly equally divided between breadgrains (wheat and rye) and coarse grains (oats, barley and corn). In the case of some countries, such as Poland, Rumania and Bulgaria, the quantities indicated were already shipped, while in the case of others, shipments had only begun in the latter part of 1947 or were to begin in 1948 and continue through the summer.

Exports to Soviet-controlled Poland, Rumania, and Bulgaria, where Soviet troops which were or are still stationed lived on indigenous food supplies, amounted to almost 400,000 long tons, with the rest going to Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, Finland and the Scandinavian countries.

Soviet grain export commitments, specifying the commodities to be obtained in exchange, are revealed separately for each country as bilateral trade agreements are concluded by the Soviet Union. In view of the fact that trade negotiations with some countries, such as Belgium, for instance, are still in progress, or may begin in the ensuing months, the Soviet grain export program cannot be considered complete as yet, and may still be increased.

The present Soviet grain export program falls considerably below shipments during the best interwar years, such as 1930-31 and 1932-33 or the period before the first world war. It compares favorably, however, with average exports during the interwar period. (See Tables 2 and 3.)

TABLE 1 - SOVIET UNION: Grain Export Commitments from the 1947 Harvest

Country of destination	Breadgrains 1/	Coarse Grains 2/	All Grains
	1,000 long tons of 2,240 pounds	1,000 long tons of 2,240 pounds	1,000 long tons of 2,240 pounds
Great Britain.....	-	738	738
Czechoslovakia.....	394	197	591
Poland.....	256	39	295
Finland.....	167	84	290 3/
Norway.....	167	20	187
Denmark.....	59	39	98
Rumania.....	59	20	79
Sweden.....	64	-	64
Bulgaria.....	5	20	25
Total.....	1,171	1,157	2,367 3/

1/ Wheat and rye.

2/ Oats, barley, corn.

3/ Includes 39,000 long tons undistributed.

TABLE 2 - SOVIET UNION: Exports of specified grains and flour, 1928-29 to 1937-38

Year beginning July 1:	Wheat including flour	Rye including flour	Oats	Barley	Corn	Total grain and flour
	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Million bushels	Thousand long tons
1928-29	1/	1/	1/	0.0	0.0	2/
1929-30	8.7	7.2	4.3	24.0	1.4	1,023
1930-31	111.8	29.1	33.8	49.8	2.5	5,335
1931-32	71.8	43.3	14.6	37.5	10.9	4,290
1932-33	19.7	9.6	1.7	16.6	8.5	1,360
1933-34	33.8	5.8	8.7	25.9	5.1	1,857
1934-35	4.3	1.2	9.1	6.6	1/	417
1935-36	29.7	2.8	10.4	29.2	0.3	1,648
1936-37	4.5	4.2	0.4	1.7	0.0	268
1937-38	43.3	12.8	0.2	10.9	0.0	1,716

1/ Less than 50,000 bushels. 2/ Less than 500 long tons.

TABLE 3 - SOVIET UNION: Export of Breadgrains, Feedgrains and all Grains, averages 1909 - 13 and 1923-27 to 1933-37

Year Beginning July 1	Breadgrains	Feedgrains	All Grains
	1,000 long tons	1,000 long tons	1,000 long tons
Average			
1909-1913	5,300	5,426	10,726
1923-1927	983	497	1,480
1928-1932	1,581	823	2,404
1933-1937	754	450	1,184

The Soviet export program is also considerably smaller than the quantity shipped and programmed by the United States during the period July 1947 to February 1948 of about 8.9 million long tons of breadgrains and 1.6 million tons of coarse grains. The present United States export goals for the whole year 1947-48 are: 12.1 million long tons of breadgrains and about 1.9 million long tons of coarse grains, including miscellaneous cereal products.

COTTON

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON; Spot prices of certain foreign growths
and qualities in specific markets

Market location, kind, and quality	Date: 1948	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good.....	1-8	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	48.50	40.47
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....	"	"	"	46.50	38.80
Giza 7, Good.....	"	"	"	55.00	45.89
Giza 7 F.G.F.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Karnak, Good.....	"	"	"	59.50	49.65
Karnak F.G.F.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine.....	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	514.00	19.78
Broach Fine.....	"	"	"	570.00	21.94
Sind American, Fine.....	"	"	"	635.00	24.44
Punjab " 289-F, Fine	"	"	"	655.00	25.21
Kampala, East African....	"	"	"	920.00	35.41
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B.....	1-9	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	2,590.00	34.98
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5.....	1-8	101.4 lbs.	Sol	167.00	25.33
Pima, Type 1....	"	"	"	199.00	30.19
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 5.....	1-9	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	130.00	21.39
Sertao Type 5.....	"	"	"	135.00	22.21
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	"	"	"	179.50	29.53
Torreón		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16".....	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	142.00	28.81

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.

FATS AND OILSUNITED STATES FATS AND OILS
EXPORTS SHOW SLIGHT INCREASE

United States exports of principal vegetable oils and oilseed, in terms of oil, totaled approximately 624 million pounds for January-November 1947, compared with 628 million for the same period of 1946 and 241 million, the 1935-39 average. Lard shipments showed a decrease of over 94 million pounds while cooking fats and oleomargarine were down about 8 and 22 million, respectively. Peanut exports, in terms of oil, amounted to approximately 67 million pounds, or 50 million more than the comparable figure for a year ago. In prewar years exports averaged less than 200,000 pounds. About 53 million pounds of tallow were exported, compared with 10 million last year and an average of less than 2 million during 1935-39. Shipments of soybean oil and soybeans, in terms of oil, amounted to over 100 million pounds or 15 million more than in 1946. Coconut, cottonseed, and linseed oil exports were larger by 6, 4, and 2 million pounds, respectively, than in the corresponding period of last year.

UNITED STATES: Exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds,
January-November 1947 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1946	January-November	
				1946	1947
Soybeans.....	1,000 bu.	a/ 4,793	2,906	1,297	1,475
Soybean oil:					
Refined.....	" lbs.	(6,467	72,583	66,787	29,625
Crude.....	" "		13,228	6,823	57,610
Coconut oil:					
Refined.....	" "	3,789	935	685	3,827
Crude.....	" "	10,442	47,366	47,332	50,232
Cottonseed oil:					
Refined.....	" "	4,793	5,857	5,429	9,310
Crude.....	" "	1,515	244	244	84
Linseed oil.....	" "	1,280	1,625	1,519	3,614
Peanuts:					
Shelled.....	" "	b/ (452	61,043	35,390	147,220
Not shelled.....	" "		7,066	5,446	16,420
Cooking fats.....	" "	2,111	11,424	11,074	3,225
Lard.....	" "	165,636	430,682	410,161	315,055
Oleomargarine.....	" "	180	50,483	39,173	17,409
Tallow:					
Edible.....	" "	b/ (1,651	4,151	4,063	601
Inedible.....	" "		6,472	5,947	52,333

Compiled from official sources.

a/ Average of less than 5 years.

b/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation.

NETHERLANDS INDIES COPRA
EXPORTS BELOW EXPECTATIONS

Copra exports from the Netherlands Indies in 1947 amounted to 150,200 long tons, according to a preliminary report. This figure represents supplies from the Eastern half of the Indies and does not include shipments of copra and coconut oil from Borneo and Sumatra to Malaya which probably reached 60,000 tons during the year (January-October 45,500 tons). Of the 150,000, 88 percent went to the Netherlands, while the quantity shipped to Malaya was crushed and the bulk of coconut oil sent to the United Kingdom.

Production in the Netherlands Indies declined sharply during the third quarter, averaging about 9,000 tons a month, but in October there was a decided improvement as a result of measures taken by the Copra Foundation to stimulate output. These measures consisted of stabilizing prices at a higher level and supplying producers with rice and textiles. This program was guaranteed for six months in order to afford the industry a period of relative stability in which to expand production.

NETHERLANDS INDIES: Copra exports, 1947 with comparisons

(Long Tons)				
Year	Copra	Coconut oil	Total as copra	
1935-39.....	507,385	14,092	529,753	
1946 -				
(May-Dec.)..a/	53,243	--	a/	53,243
1947 b/.....	150,227	--		150,227

Country	1947 distribution of copra			
	January-October	November	b/ December	b/ January December
United States.....	1,546	--	--	1,546
Czechoslovakia.....	5,000	--	--	5,000
Denmark.....	7,999	--	--	7,999
France.....	--	--	4,000	4,000
Netherlands.....	102,934	--	11,223	114,157
Norway.....	2,000	3,469	--	5,469
Sweden.....	3,200	--	--	3,200
Switzerland.....	2,082	--	--	2,082
Lebanon.....	1,525	--	--	1,525
Union of South Africa....	5,249	--	--	5,249
Total.....a/	131,535	3,469	15,223	150,227

Compiled from official sources.

a/ Revised. b/ Subject to revision.

In view of the action taken by the Foundation it is expected that both production and exports of copra will increase in 1948. Anticipated shipments in January and February are 8,000 and 12,000 tons, respectively, compared with 3,300 and 9,500 in the corresponding months of 1947. Prices paid by the Foundation for copra delivered at warehouses are: F.M.S. Grade A 24 gulden per 100 kilograms (\$92 per long ton), Grade B 23 (\$88), Mixed Grade 20 (\$77) and "off quality" grade 15 (\$58). These are the prices received by the middleman who collects copra from producers and delivers it to the Foundation's warehouses.

PHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS REACH ALL-TIME HIGH

Philippine copra and coconut oil (in terms of copra) exports reached an all-time high in 1947 when more than a million long tons left the country. Shipments were 67 percent larger than a year earlier and exceeded the prewar (1935-39) average by 80 percent. Distribution was according to International Emergency Food Committee allocations with the United States receiving 60 percent and European countries, approximately 30 percent.

Export prices ranged from \$103.50 per ton in August 1946, to around \$290 late in 1947. Production, estimated at 1.1 million tons in 1947, was a record for the Philippines.

Indications are that 1948 exports will be about 10 percent less than last year. The expected decrease is attributed in part to damage from recent typhoons, to increased production of desiccated coconut, and to smaller stocks on hand compared with a year ago.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Copra and coconut oil exports, 1947 with comparisons (Long tons)

Year	Copra	Coconut oil	Total as copra
1935-39	299,838	161,747	556,579
1940	336,526	183,464	627,739
1946	600,374	a/	600,374
1947 b/	966,582	23,251	1,003,488

a/ Not available.

b/ Subject to revision.

(Continued on following page)

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Copra exports, January-December 1947

Country	Jan.-Oct.	November	December a/	Jan.-Dec. a/
United States.....	454,293	78,857	52,470	585,620
Canada.....	16,607	-	-	16,607
Mexico.....	1,500	-	-	1,500
Panama C. Z.....	809	-	200	1,009
Colombia.....	5,300	-	-	5,300
Venezuela.....	7,862	-	-	7,862
Austria.....	12,500	-	-	12,500
Belgium.....	7,581	-	2,725	10,306
Czechoslovakia.....	7,676	-	-	7,676
Denmark.....	35,661	1,000	2,162	38,823
France.....	69,432	2,700	1,000	73,132
Bi-Zonal Germany.....	9,500	-	1,720	11,220
Italy.....	27,726	850	-	28,576
Netherlands.....	4,400	800	262	5,462
Norway.....	15,719	-	-	15,719
Poland.....	20,112	5,100	-	25,212
Sweden.....	9,866	2,032	-	11,898
Switzerland.....	12,379	-	-	12,379
United Kingdom.....	21,250	-	-	21,250
Yugoslavia.....	7,733	-	-	7,733
Undeclared				
European Countries...	799	-	-	799
India.....	13,200	-	-	13,200
Japan.....	6,500	-	9,600	16,100
Palestine.....	10,510	-	-	10,510
Egypt.....	-	3,560	-	3,560
Fr. Morocco.....	6,050	-	-	6,050
Un. of So. Africa....	14,579	-	2,000	16,579
Total.....	799,544	94,899	72,139	966,582

COCONUT OIL, 1947 distribution: United States 16,524, Cuba 190, Italy 4,637, Netherlands 1,000, China 14, India 443, Mauritius 443, Total 23,251 (36,906 in terms of copra).

Compiled from official sources.

a/ Subject to revision.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

COLOMBIA CREATES NEW FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

A Forestry Development Institute, a quasi-autonomous public agency, charged in general with the protection and development of forests and forest resources, has been established in Colombia.

The Institute is described as a consultative body to the government in all forestry matters. Its governing body is an executive Committee composed of one member each from the Ministry of National Economy, the Society of Friends of the Tree of Bogota, the Colombian Agricultural Society, the National Federation of Coffee Growers, and the Colombian Association of Agricultural Engineers. Funds are provided principally through congressional appropriation, receipts from its own activities, including export transactions, fines for violation of forestry regulations, and the returns from a tax on transfers of ownership of forest lands.

A decree of August 22, 1947, defines the objectives and duties of the new Institute as follows:

1. To make studies of the different regions of the country in which reforestation is necessary for watershed protection and soil erosion control;
2. To prepare a forestry map of the country, indicating the wooded areas susceptible of commercial development or industrialization, including specific information which might be useful in planning technical exploitation;
3. To undertake within the shortest possible time, the exploitation of certain products of vital importance to the economy of the country, such as rubber, gums, lumber, quinine, dividivi, etc.;
4. To organize laboratories for analysis and research in forest products suitable for industrialization;
5. To control exports of forest products in order to make certain that they meet specifications of particular contracts, especially in regard to quality of the product;
6. To serve as intermediary between small exploiters and national or foreign buyers, in order to guarantee prices to the former which are remunerative for the products they deliver, establishing buying agencies for this purpose in producing areas;
7. To organize forestry experimental and distribution farms and reforestation nurseries;

8. To offer to concessionaires in public forests or to exploiters of private forests, the technical assistance needed in exploitation, replantation, or reproduction of the forest species being worked. As a result, the forest nurseries required to be established by concessionaires of public forests, in accordance with the provisions of article 6 of Decree 2921 of 1946, shall come under the Institute's control;
9. To make plantations of economically valuable forest species;
10. To supervise the fulfillment of forestry laws and especially the obligations of public forest concessionaires, reporting fully in this respect to the Ministry of National Economy;
11. To organize installations or establishments for processing forest products;
12. To advertise forest products inside as well as outside the country;
13. To supply fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, tools, machinery, etc. necessary to the plantation, exploitation or conservation of forest products to private organizations and at cost;
14. To provide long term credit in connection with the development of specific forest products, and at a minimum rate of two percent interest per annum;
15. To contract with both public and private persons, in accordance with existing legislation and subject to approval of the Board of Directors, for plantation, exploitation and exportation of forest products.

